

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are currently pending. Claims 1-8, 10, and 11 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,839,033 to Takahashi et al. (hereinafter “the ‘033 patent”).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants’ representative on July 29, 2004, at which time a proposed amendment to Claim 1 was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the proposed response would overcome the outstanding rejection of the claims, but that a further search of the prior art would be required upon formal submission of a response to the outstanding Office Action.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus, comprising, *inter alia*: (1) a document reading unit configured to read a document at a constant speed and to generate image data comprising a digital signal; (2) a storing unit configured to store the image data generated by the document reading unit together with information about the size of the read document; (3) an enlargement/reduction specifying unit configured to specify an enlargement/reduction condition when the read document is to be output; (4) an enlargement/reduction factor calculating unit configured to calculate an enlargement/reduction factor based on the information about the size of the read document stored in the storing unit and the enlargement/reduction condition specified by the enlargement/reduction specifying unit; and (5) an enlargement/reduction unit configured to

carry out enlargement/reduction of the image data stored in the storing unit based on the enlargement/reduction factor calculated by the enlargement/reduction factor calculating unit. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1, the '033 patent is directed to an image forming apparatus including means for setting the size of the original document, the size of the output document, and the desired margins on the output document. As shown in Step ST37 of Figure 19, the '033 patent discloses that an original document is read based on a calculated magnification, wherein the magnification is based on the set margins and specified sizes of the input and output documents. In particular, as shown in Figure 6, the '033 patent discloses a "portion for controlling reading of an original document" 351 that controls the reading of an original document based on the reduction or enlargement ratio in accordance with the relationship between the output sheet and the size of the original document.¹ However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '033 patent fails to disclose a storing unit configured to store image data generated by a document reading unit together with information about the size of a read document, as recited in Claim 1. The '033 patent does not disclose the size information and the image data are stored together. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 2-5) as anticipated by the '033 patent.

Independent Claims 6 and 11 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of independent Claim 6 (and dependent Claims 7-10) and independent Claim 11 as anticipated by the '033 patent.

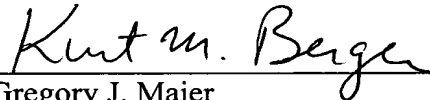
¹ See, e.g., '033 patent, column 7, lines 57-67. See also, column 10, lines 51-52.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '033 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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